

Indiana Dunes State Park

Nature Center

1600 N. 25 E. Chesterton, Indiana 46304 • (219) 926-1390

June Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST Daily

All public programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Schools and special groups must reserve programs separately. Contact the Nature Center for more details

PARK CONTACTS:

Mike Mycroft, MM, Interpretive Naturalist
David Garner, DG, Interpretive Naturalist
Allie LeRoy, AL, Interpretive Naturalist
219-926-1390

Brandt Baughman, Property Manager
Doug Stukey, Assistant Property Manager
219-926-1952

Friday, June 1

1pm Box Turtle Lunch – Pack a lunch and join a Naturalist and the Nature Center's box turtle for lunch on the picnic tables in front of the Nature Center. This is a 30 min. program, followed by a turtle craft you can take home. AL

Saturday, June 2

10am Restoration Spotlight - Join a naturalist and tour some of the resource management sites of the park. Included will be a tour of the recent prairie restoration. 90 min. tour, some driving required. Meet at the Nature Center. MM

2pm Marsh Scoop – Help a naturalist find life in the Marsh. Visitors will collect invertebrates using nets. This 30 min. program will start from the Wilson Shelter with a short walk to the Marsh. AL

Saturday, June 2 (Cont.)

4pm Naturalist on the Run - Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Beach with some curious objects.

8pm Sunset Stroll – Join a Naturalist at the Pavilion for a 30 min. stroll down the beach to enjoy the sunset and learn what animals are coming out for the night. DG

Sunday, June 3

10am Busy Beaver - Take a journey with a naturalist and discover why the beaver has to stay so busy. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program. DG

2pm To Paradise and Back – Join a naturalist on a 90 min. moderate hike to see Paradise Valley and discover why it is named so. Meet at the Nature Center.

Monday, June 4

11am Terrific Trees – Come and discover why the tree is such an important part of our lives. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program.

1:30pm Emerald Giant – Learn about one of the smallest insect and how it is a giant problem. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. Program. Come and get a FREE magnetic bumper sticker. DG

Tuesday, June 5

11:30am Bring Them to Me – Learn what it takes to bring the birds to your own backyard. Meet in the Nature Center Observation Room for a 30 min. program. DG

2pm Finding Home – Go out on an easy 30 min. walk from the Nature Center in search of animals' homes. Meet at Nature Center front door. DG

Wednesday, June 6

10am Geology of the Dunes – What was here before sand? Learn about the geology of the dunes in a 30 min. program in the Nature Center Auditorium.

1:30pm Drawing Birds – Learn an easy way to draw birds and discover what comes and visits our Nature Center. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 min. program.

Thursday, June 7

1pm Postcards – Make your own postcard to preserve your visit to the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center for this 30 min. activity.

Friday, June 8

9:30am Great Views – Join a Naturalist on a 90 min. moderate hike on trail 9. Discover the great views that the park has to offer and learn about blowouts. Meet at the Nature Center. AL

3pm Saving Memories – Create a great way to save memories by designing your own scrap book. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this 45 min. program. DG

Saturday, June 9

10am A Walk Through Time – Join a naturalist for a walk through geological time. Meet at the Pavilion for this 45 min. moderate walk. DG

1:30pm Fallen Tree – Discover the importance of a fallen tree. Learn why it is important not to collect firewood in the State Parks. DG

3pm Naturalist on the Run - Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects.

8:30pm Winged Creatures of the Night – come and learn about bats, moths and owls in this 30 min. program at the campground shelter. AL

Sunday, June 10

10am Out of Sight Fun – Learn to use a GPS unit and discover the fun of finding hidden treasures. Meet at the Campground front gate for an easy 45 hike. DG

Sunday, June 10 (Cont.)

2:00pm Making Field Guides – Learn to make your own tree field guide. This 45 min. activity will meet at the Nature Center and will have an easy walk around the Nature Center to look for leaves to put in your field guide.

Monday, June 11

1pm History of the Dunes – Come and learn the history of the Indiana Dunes. This 30 min. program will look at the dunes from the 1920's to the present. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG

Tuesday, June 12

9:30am Going to the Bird - Help a Naturalist feed the animals that visit the wildlife observation window and wait to see who comes. Meet in the Nature Center for a 30 program. DG

1:30pm Live Animals - See the live animals that we have in the nature center. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program. DG

Wednesday, June 13

10am Fossils, Rocks, & Minerals – Come and discover the types of fossils that you may find in the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program.

1pm Nature Comic Strip – Put down in ink what you learned, saw, or did at Indiana Dunes by making your own comic. Meet at the Nature Center for this 30 min. program. AL

Thursday, June 14

10am – 17 year Cicadas – Come and learn about brood XIII. Learn why the cicadas are so great in number and why they come out every 17 years. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. talk and a short easy walk in search for them. AL

Friday, June 15

10am Dog's Little Treats – Learn why it is important to clean up after you dog. Meet in the Nature Center for a 30 min. program. DG

2pm Mt. Hike- hike to the tops of the three sand mountains of the park and learn how they formed. Start at beach pavilion, end at NC. Rugged 60 min hike. AL

Friday, June 15 (Cont.)

8pm-11pm Stars and Sand – Grab your beach blankets and join the Calumet Astronomical Society at the Pavilion for an evening under the stars! Many large telescopes will be available for you to gaze through as representatives of the society guide you through the night. DG

Saturday, June 16

1pm – Animals of the Past – Join a Naturalist for a 45 min. moderate walk around a site of a control burn. The hike will focus on animals that are no longer in the region. Meet at the Nature Center. AL

3pm Naturalist on the Run - Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Campground with some curious objects.

8pm-11pm Stars and Sand – Grab your beach blankets and join the Calumet Astronomical Society at the Pavilion for an evening under the stars! Many large telescopes will be available for you to gaze through as representatives of the society guide you through the night. DG

Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day)

11:30am What Dad's Do – Join a naturalist to discover how animals in the wild take care of their young. Meet in the Nature Center for a 30 min. program. DG

2pm Dunes 101 – Meet at the Campground shelter for a 45 min. moderate hike to learn how dunes are made and what you can do to keep them here.

Monday, June 18

10am Batty About Bats – Discover the actual size of Indiana's bats. Create your own bat outlines that you can take home with you. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this 45 min. program. DG

2pm Fabulous Footprints – Learn to identify the critter tracks in the park and create your own field guide for you to keep. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this 30 min. program. DG

Tuesday, June 19

10am Wildfires – Learn what the State Park is doing to reduce the risk of large wildfires. Meet in the Nature Center for a 30 min. program.

2pm Blooming Dunes - Get acquainted with some of the wildflowers of the park and where to find them in a 30 min. slide show in the Nature Center. DG

Wednesday, June 20

Nature Video Day – Come into the Nature Center and choose from 50 nature videos. Nature Videos are shown in the Nature Center Auditorium; ask at the front desk for a list to select from.

Thursday, June 21

10am Butterfly or Moth – Create your own moth or butterfly and learn how to tell the difference. Meet at the Nature Center for this 30 min. program.

Friday, June 22

10am Plants are Fascinating– Join a naturalist on an easy 30 min. walk and learn about plants that grow here. Meet at the Nature Center.

2pm Cool Down/Warm Up – Come in to the Nature Center to cool down and learn how cold blooded animals control their body temperature. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program.

Saturday, June 23

9:30am Birding Walk – Join a naturalist on an easy 45 min. walk in search of birds. Meet at the Nature Center and bring binoculars if you have them. DG

1:30pm Up, Up, and Away – Join a naturalist on a 45 min. moderate hike up to Mt. Tom and enjoy the views. Meet at the Campground Shelter. DG

4pm Naturalist on the Run - Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Beach with some curious objects.

9pm Ghost Stories of Lake Michigan – Join a naturalist for a 30 min. program with an easy walk. Meet at the Pavilion to learn more about ghosts of Lake Michigan.

Sunday, June 24

10am Wildflower Tour – Join a naturalist and search for June wildflower on a 60 min. moderate hike. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

2pm Native Americans – Come and learn about the Native Americans that once lived in the area. 45 min. program. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Monday, June 25

10am Underwater Adventure – Join a naturalist in search of underwater life in our marsh. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 min. adventure.

2pm Humpty Dumpty – Discover what it takes to restore a natural environment. Learn what we do at the park to help our ecosystems. Meet in the Nature Center for a 30 min. program.

Tuesday, June 26

10am Looking for Life – Join a naturalist and discover the life that we have in the park. Meet at the Nature Center for a 45 min. easy walk. DG

2pm Scavenger Hunt – Look for natural items throughout the park. Meet at the Nature Center for a 30 min. activity. DG

Wednesday, June 27

10am Dunes Character – Come to the Nature Center for a 30 min. program about people who's lives have intersected with Indiana Dunes State Park. AL

3pm Camouflage – What does it take to survive. Come and discover what colors are the best for summer. Meet at the Nature Center for this fun 30 min. activity.

Thursday, June 28

10am Fossils, Rocks, & Minerals – Come and discover the types of fossils that you may find in the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program

2pm Lot about Water – Discover why water is so important in the Indiana Dunes and what it take to take care of it. Meet in the Nature Center for this 30 min. program.

Friday, June 29

11am Treasures in the Sand – What washes up on the beaches is not always trash. Help a naturalist look for treasures in the sand on this 30 min. treasure hunt. Meet at the Pavilion. DG

2pm Beetle Mania – Come and learn why beetles are so amazing. Meet at the Nature Center for this 30 min. program.

Saturday, June 30

10am Tell Your Story – come and reminisce about the Indiana Dunes. Don't have a story come and listen about stories from the past. Meet in the Nature Center for this 30 min. program.

2pm Our Footprint – discover what it means to be a conservationist. Meet at the Nature Center for a 30 min. activity.

4pm Naturalist on the Run - Keep your eyes open for a naturalist roving the Beach with some curious objects.

9pm Full Moon Hike – Learn about the cycle of the moon and experience it for yourself. Meet at the Nature Center for a 45 min. moderate hike.

Reserve a special hike or program for your group!

Naturalists have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive naturalist service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at
www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservation at
1-866-622-6746 or
on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov